



Press Release

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Pennsylvania Cattle Inventory Down

HARRISBURG – Pennsylvania farmers had 1,630,000 cattle and calves on hand on January 1, 2003, down 10,000 head from the January 1, 2002 level, according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service (PASS).

The Keystone State's calf crop for 2002 was 660,000, unchanged from 2001. All cows that have calved, at 740,000, was unchanged from the previous year. Milk cow inventory, at 590,000, is up 2,000 head from January 1, 2002. Beef cows totaled 150,000, down one percent from last year's beef cow inventory. Milk cow replacement heifers 500 pounds and over, at 280,000, were down almost two percent from last year's number. Beef cow replacement heifers, at 45,000, moved up 13 percent from last year.

Other heifers 500 pounds and over, at 50,000, increased 5,000 head from January 1, 2002. Steers in the same weight category, at 170,000, were three percent from last year's level. Bulls, at 25,000, were the same as January 1, 2002. All calves under 500 pounds, at 320,000, were down 10,000 head from last year.

There were 28,000 operations in Pennsylvania which had cattle, 9,900 operations with milk cows, and 11,200 operations with beef cows during 2002.

Primary data used in making cattle estimates for Pennsylvania and the United States were obtained from a sample of about 50,000 agricultural producers in the United States using probability surveys. Information was collected by mail, telephone and personal interview.

All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 2003, totaled 96.1 million head, 1 percent below the 96.7 million on January 1, 2002 and 1 percent below the 97.3 million two years ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 42.1 million, were down slightly from the 42.2 million on January 1, 2002 and down 1 percent from the 42.6 million two years ago. Beef cows, at 32.95 million, were down 1 percent from both January 1, 2002 and January 1, 2001. Milk cows, at 9.15 million, were up slightly from January 1, 2002 but down slightly from two years ago. Other class estimates on January 1, 2003 and the change from January 1, 2002, are as follows: all heifers 500 pounds and over, 19.6 million, down slightly; beef replacement heifers, 5.61 million, up 1 percent; milk replacement heifers, 4.10 million, up 1 percent; other heifers, 9.89 million, down 2 percent; steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 16.6 million, down 1 percent; bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.25 million, up slightly; calves under 500 pounds, 15.6 million, down 1 percent; cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in all feedlots, 12.9 million, down 7 percent; and the combined total of calves under 500 pounds, and other heifers and steers over 500 pounds outside of feedlots, 29.1 million, up 1 percent.

The number of operations with cattle totaled 1.03 million during 2002, down 2 percent from 2001 and 4 percent below 2000. Beef cow operations in 2002 were down 1 percent from 2001 and 3 percent below 2000. Milk cow operations were 6 percent below last year and 13 percent below two years ago.